The Allegations of the Glaſs-Makers Examin'd and Anſwer'd.

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THE Glaſs-makers who petition againſt the Duty, Alledge,

I. That by reaſon of the Duty, the Manufactures are ſtopp'd, and the Makers, which are Numerous, reduc'd to Poverty.

'Tis plain that's but a Pretended Cauſe; and 'tis eaſy to prove, That the Real Cauſe of what Stop. has been made, is the Solicitation of ſome particular Men, who wrote Letters to deſire the Glaſs-makers to put out their Fires, and to raiſe Contributions to carry on their Petition; for at the ſame time that they affirm want of Demand for Goods occaſion'd them to put out their Fires, the want of Goods is ſo great among them, that the Prices of all Glaſs are conſiderably riſen; and ſeveral Houſes had prepar'd to work, and muſt begin quickly, whether the Duty be taken off or no; one of which is a Rebuilt Houſe, that has not wrought for ſeveral Years before.

The Demand for Bottles indeed at *Glouceſter* and *Sturbridge* may have been leſs than uſual: But the want of Cyder, not the Duty, has been the Occaſion of that, together with the vaſt Quantity they made before the Act took place: For 'tis known they have had no Cyder for Two Years paſt, on which the Bottle-Trade in thoſe Parts depends; and this is plain, becauſe the Flint and Broad Glaſs-houſes there, have wrought all along as uſual, till by Letters from *London* they were deſir'd to ſtop, to make a Pretence for Petitioning.

So that the Glaſs-makers themſelves being chiefly the Occaſion of the Stop on the Trade, are anſwerable for all the Poverty of the Workmen; and yet thoſe Workmen are far from being ſo Numerous as they pretend, there being not Eight hundred People employ'd in or about all the Glaſs-Works in *England*.

II. They alledge, That the Duties have leſſen'd the Conſumption.

This they very happily contradict themſelves; for they alſo affirm, That Cheapneſs only cauſes Conſumption. Now 'tis plain they have ſold all ſorts of Glaſs, except Bottles, cheaper ſince the Act, than they did before, till the putting out of their Fires, or elſe the Glaſs-makers are forſworn; for their own Affidavits can be produced to prove it. If then Glaſs-Wares have been cheaper ſince the Duty than before, and Cheapneſs cauſes Conſumption, as they allow, How is it poſſible the Duty can have leſſen'd the Conſumption? And yet this Cheapneſs has not been occaſion'd by the Duty neither, but by the Glaſs-makers themſelves, to deſtroy others who were ſetting up againſt them, as Mr. *Jackſon* himſelf has acknowledg'd.

III. They pretend, That Glaſs-Wares are more for Fancy than Neceſſity; and the Breakage and Hazard ſuch as will not bear a Duty.

This is againſt them too.

For if they are for Fancy more than Neceſſity, they may the better bear a Tax; for then no Poor Man who can diſpenſe with his Fancy, need part with his Money; and yet we find Glaſs-Wares are ſo neceſſary, that hardly any people are without them; and by the calling in the Plate, may come to be ſo much us'd, as to make the Duty very conſiderable.

As to Loſſes and Breakage, they do as all other Dealers in Periſhable Commodities do in like Caſes, conſider it in the Prices they ſell at.

IV. They alledge, They have great Quantities of Bottles by them, which they cannot diſpoſe of; and Capt. *Gutteridge* pretends to have loſt 1000 *l.* for his own Share of a Bottle-Houſe, by reaſon of this Duty.

It were to be wiſh'd theſe Gentlemen might affirm theſe things upon Oath, and then 'twou'd be hop'd the difference between Allegations and Affidavits would appear.

For as to the Quantity of Bottles on hand which they cannot diſpoſe of;

'Tis publickly known no Bottles are now to be had, or at leaſt no quantity; and 'tis prov'd by this, That whereas in *June* laſt they were to be ſold at 3 *s. per Doz.* Quarts, and 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Pints, now they ſell at 3 *s.* 6 *d. per Doz.* Quarts, and 3 *s. per Doz.* Pints, and hardly any to be had ſo.

But how Captain *Gutteridge* can make out his pretence, is a further Myſtery.

For he is but One Fourth part concern'd in the ſaid Glaſs-Houſe, and all the Duty ever paid by them to the King, came but to 419 *l.* 6 *s.* 6 *l.* for his Share; and how he could Loſe a 1000 *l.* out of it, is a Riddle wants explaining; for 'tis known alſo, That the Bottles they made, Sold for ſo much more than uſual, as the Duty came to; and yet if all the Bottles made at that Houſe ſince the Duty had been thrown away, they could not have loſt much above a 1000 *l.* a Man, which he affirms they have loſt by the Duty. And this very Gentleman

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tleman has declared ſince this very Seſſion of Parliament, That the Duty did them no Harm; and laſt Seſſion of Parliament did prepare and Sign a Petition againſt the Taking off the ſaid Duty; the Original whereof is ready to be produced.

V. They make great pretenſions of the Art being Loſt and Engroſs'd by Foreigners; and Mr. *Jackſon* ſays there uſes to be Tranſported to *Ireland* 5000 *l.* a Year in Glaſs-Wares.

This any Man that underſtands the Trade of Glaſs knows to be ridiculous.

For as to the ſetting up the Manufacture abroad, it has often been tried, to the Loſs of ſeveral Thouſand Pounds, before the Duty was laid; and the Diſtance and Dearneſs of Materials make it impracticable; and the Duty cannot alter it one way or other, becauſe 'tis wholly allow'd them back upon Exportation: And ſome of the Glaſs-Makers have been abroad to try what Encouragement the *Dutch* would give them, but have found it to no purpoſe, and are accordingly come back again.

And as to Mr. *Jackſon*'s ſaying there has been 4 or 5000 *l.* Yearly Exported to *Ireland*; it were to be wiſh'd Mr. *Jackſon* was order'd to prove that ever One Fifth of that Quantity was ſent to *Ireland* in one Year; and it might be made appear, that more has been ſent thither, as well as to other Parts, ſince the Duty, than ever has been in any one Year in 7 Years before.

Thus the Glaſs-Makers to make good their Petition are forced to fly to Fictions and Falſities; which becauſe the Perſons Employed to Manage it for his Majeſty think it their Duty to Detect, they Publiſh Pamphlets upon them fill'd with falſe and ſcurrilous Reflections; denying what is offered to be proved upon them, and falſly affirming plain Contradictions, which they know they cannot make out, *preſuming upon their being Examined only upon Parole*; reproaching the Commiſſioners with Arguing for the Duty only to preſerve their Salaries, though the Commiſſioners only Anſwer'd ſuch Queſtions as the Chairman of the Committee put to them, nor ever appear'd till they were ſent for.

And now they are arriv'd to that degree, puſh'd on by *the Inſolence of* Solicitors, as to Print the very Account, and Papers delivered in to the Committee of the Houſe of Commons, as is preſum'd without Leave for ſo doing, and to annex their moſt ridiculous Calculations of what will be, and what may be; which will appear to be Erroneous to any that pleaſe to examine them: As for inſtance, their Calculations of Debentures and Deductions from the Duty, which now they have Printed, are Falſe in every Article, they having carried the Account of Debentures on above Two Months farther than the Commiſſioners Account of the Duty extends, on purpoſe to make the Sums ſeem the Larger, and then given a prepoſterous Calculation of what will be, and what may be, if ſuch or ſuch things happen, which are never likely to come to paſs. Now 'tis moſt certainly true, if they keep from Working, there will never any more Duty be Collected; *but 'tis as true*, if the Duty continue, and they can be kept from Cheating the King, and Swearing down the Value lower than they Sell, the Duty will certainly raiſe 25000 *l. per Ann.* on Glaſs, and above 30000 *l. per Ann.* on Pipes and Earthen Wares; and the Commiſſioners not only brought Perſons ready to Farm them at 50000 *l. per Ann.* as Directed by the Committee, but gave good Reaſons for their Opinion; ſome of which Reaſons are as follow:

1. Becauſe in one particular Quarter, from *May* 17 to *Auguſt* 17, when they did not expect the Duty ſhould be taken off, the Glaſs and Pipes and Earthen Ware did actually bring in 11000 *l.*

2. Becauſe the Makers all over *England* ſtock'd themſelves and the Retailers alſo with all ſorts of the ſaid Wares before the Acts took place, and ſome of them enough to ſupply them for a Twelvemonth.

3. Becauſe in the *Weſt* Parts of *England*, as *Sturbridge* and *Glouceſter*, they have had no Cyder for Two Years paſt, which has occaſion'd leſs Demand for Bottles.

4. The Makers have contriv'd to put a ſtop to their Works to leſſen the Duties.

5. That the Duty on the Earthen Ware being Collected by the ſame Officers as the other Duties, coſt the King not a Penny to Collect it, and will pay the Charge of the reſt.

6. The ſame Obſtructions that have hindred and leſſen'd other Branches of His Majeſty's Revenue, have had the like Influence upon this.

7. Their abating the Prices, in order to deſtroy one another, which has conſiderably abated the Duty on Glaſs.

8. No Duty at firſt ever rais'd what after ſome time they are brought to; and the Makers of theſe Wares have more ways than all people know of, to Evade a Duty, which in time may be prevented, but at firſt cannot not ſo well be known.

There are alſo no Reaſons offered againſt theſe Duties but what ſtand good againſt all the ſeveral Duties of Exciſe on Beer, Ale, and other Liquors, the Perſons employ'd by them being infinitely more Numerous than thoſe concern'd in theſe Manufactures.

The Glaſs-Makers having never been able to Anſwer theſe Reaſons, have ſuppli'd it with Railing at the Commiſſioners, with Threatnings to Expoſe them and *De-Witt* them; which the Commiſſioners do not think worth while to Reply to.

All which is Humbly Referr'd to the Honourable the Houſe of Commons.

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